



THE PERSE SCHOOL

The Perse Millennium Appeal – A Job Finished

January 2004

Introduction

Throughout the history of the Perse School special support has always been required for major development projects. These have helped make the School one of the best in the country. Over the past fifty years this has included support for the building of the current Upper School in 1960, the Appeals of 1979 and 1987 and most recently the Millennium Appeal, which was launched in the spring of 1997.

The Millennium Appeal set out five objectives, made up of four capital projects and a commitment to increase the provision of bursary support. Now that the last capital project has been

finished, the aim of this report is to describe how each target has been met. The Perse is proud to have completed all the Millennium Appeal objectives successfully but is acutely aware that this would not have been possible but for the generosity of so many parents, Old Perseans and friends who all share in the vision of what the School is trying to achieve.

Our target for the Appeal was £1million. In fact over £1.1million was raised, some of which is still being received through 7-year covenants, and all of which has allowed the Perse to face the challenges of the twenty-first century with confidence and continuing success.



The Appeal capital objectives as they happened

January 1998	Work commenced on the third phase of the new Science Laboratories	September 2000	The new Sports Centre became fully operational, including the sports and fitness equipment funded by the Millennium Campaign
11 September 1998	Formally opened by Reverend Canon Dr John Polkinghorne KBE FRS OP	October 2002	Work commenced on the new Music School
April 1999	Work commenced on the new Library and Resources Centre at the Prep School	26 September 2003	Formally opened by Dr John Rutter
15 October 1999	Formally opened by the MP for South Cambridgeshire, Andrew Lansley CBE		

Queries

If you have any queries about the Millennium Campaign or any other Perse development matter then please do not hesitate to contact Roly Owers or Annette Bell in the Development Office.

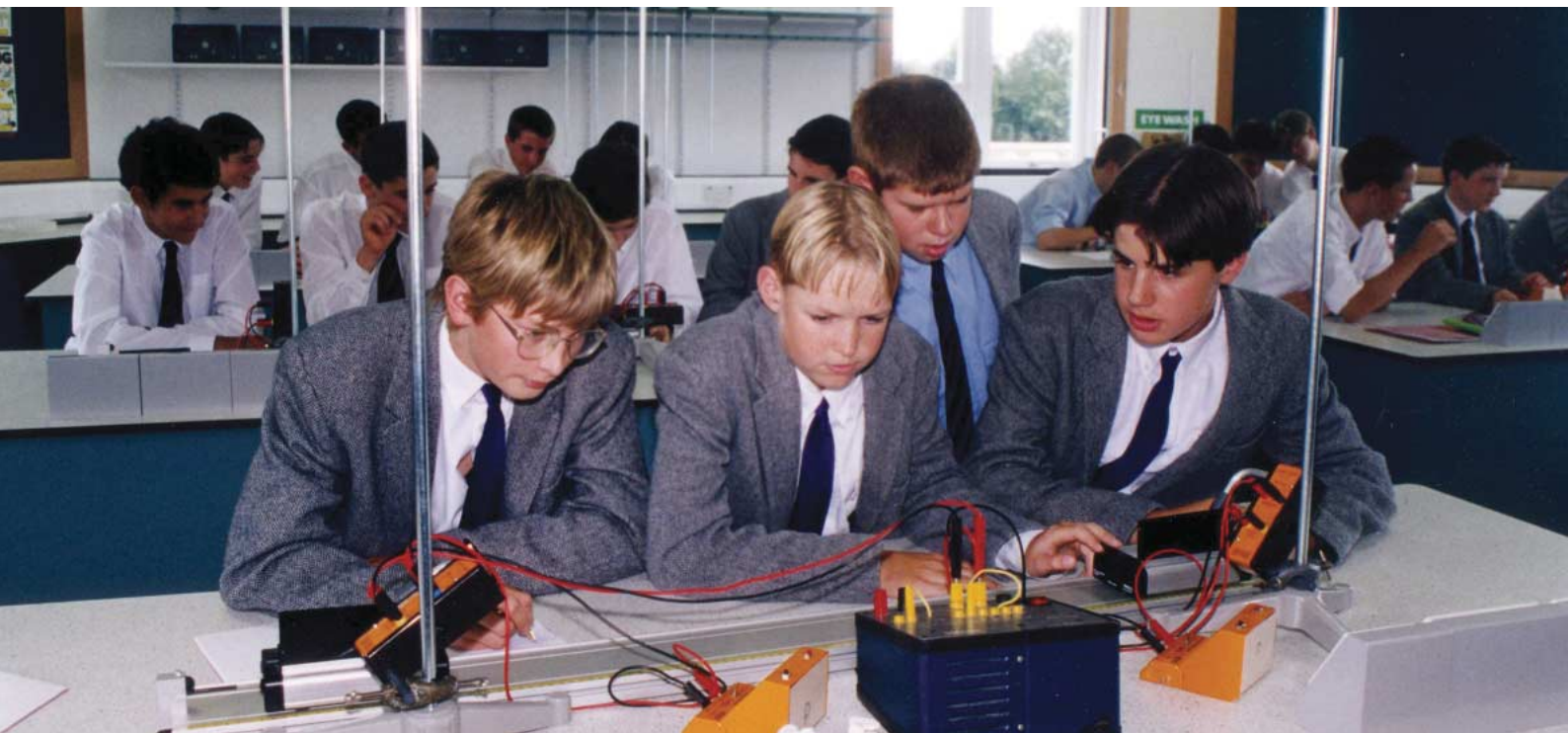


For further information concerning this publication, please contact:
Perse School Development Office, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 2QF
 Tel: 01223 568355 • Email: devdir@perse.co.uk • www.perse.co.uk

The Laboratory Development at the Upper

This development formed the third and final phase of the Science Laboratory Building and involved a combination of new build and refurbishment of existing plant. This phase provided an additional fully equipped laboratory for each of the three Sciences and was completed in time for the start of the academic year 1998/99. Subsequent to this each of the three remaining un-modernised laboratories were refurbished, finishing in 2002. This means that now every laboratory at the Perse has been built or refurbished since 1996.

As a result of this development the Perse has been able further to enhance its strong reputation for the Sciences and accommodate an increasing number of pupils at the School, especially in the Sixth Form. The number of pupils taking at least one Science subject in the Sixth Form has grown from 88 in 2001 to 141 in the current academic year, a growth of over 60%. The School continues to offer all three Sciences up to GCSE. It also now offers a more varied pattern of courses in the Sixth Form as a result of the introduction of the AS and A2 Levels.



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Pupils look to the 21st century

YOUNG pupils at a Cambridge preparatory school are stepping into the 21st century with the opening of a learning resource centre. Andrew Lansley, MP for South Cambridgeshire, was at the Perse Preparatory School, in Trumpington Road, to mark the opening of the centre and two new Year Three classrooms. The learning resource centre, set up in a converted classroom, acts as a library, as well as a computer centre, with CD-ROMs and some Internet access for pupils.

The school will also be employing a full-time librarian for the first time. Paul Izsett, headmaster, said: "The learning resource centre replaces the old library facilities and, in many ways, it brings us into the 21st century." He added: "Previously, our Year Three classrooms were in separate parts of the school. The new rooms are alongside each other so we will be able to make it very much their own special area."

Library and Resources Centre at the Preparatory School



Prior to the Millennium Appeal the Preparatory School had an inadequate library housed in the hall of Leighton House, with insufficient

space to accommodate the growing range of books required to support the learning needs of the pupils. An Appeal objective was therefore to convert an existing classroom into a Library/Resources Centre which would provide not only a wide range of fiction, non-fiction, reference material, magazines, story cassettes and videos, but also several computer workstations for boys to access the networked system of CD ROMs in the school. A new classroom was also to be built to replace the one 'lost' to the library and to cater for the youngest pupils in the school.

The New Library/Resources Centre has led to the employment of a professional librarian at the Prep, to make sure the new facilities are

fully promoted and used. All pupils now have regular time allocated in the library, to learn how to use a library for information

research, to learn about different authors and illustrators, to choose fiction material and above all to discover that books are a source of enjoyment and fun and not just a learning tool. The Library has enabled the school to host visits by a variety of authors and poets, including Jacqueline Wilson and the previous Children's Laureate Anne Fine. These visits are extremely successful in promoting the value of reading good fiction and have also had a positive effect on the boys' creative writing. Key events in the children's literature calendar are now also celebrated, such as World Book Day, Children's Book Week and major children's book awards and prizes.

The School's Library Policy encourages the love of books and reading: the provision of a new library at the Prep has enabled this to become an established part of school life.



MP Andrew Lansley CBE opens the new Library and Resource Centre at the Prep

Sports Equipment

The building of the outstanding Sports Complex at the Perse was made possible through the sale of a former boarding house in Glebe Road. The Appeal objective was to purchase a diverse range of quality sports and fitness equipment for this new facility. This included equipment for a wide range of sports, including basketball, volleyball, badminton, netball, squash, table tennis, judo, hockey, fencing, soccer and cricket, whilst the latter included weights machines, bikes, treadmills, steppers and rowing machines.



This sports equipment has allowed all Perse pupils to participate in a range of sports activity all year round, whatever the weather. In addition it provides a choice of sports which suits the less able ball player as well as the best rugby, hockey or cricket team member. These are all traditional Perse strengths. The Fitness Suite is also open to staff from all three schools, and for unsupervised use to all senior pupils who have completed an induction course.

Maximum use is made of the Sports Complex outside school hours through hiring it out to local community and university groups. Links are further developed with the local community through the operation of a 'doctor's referral scheme', run by the City Council, which involves patient rehabilitation sessions on one evening per week in the Fitness Suite.





Dr John Rutter opens the New Music School

Music School

When the Appeal objectives were being planned in the mid-1990s it was obvious that demands on use of the existing Music School had long since been outgrown and the plan was to double its size. However by 2000/01, when design preparations started on this, the final Millennium Appeal objective, it was evident that a far more ambitious facility was required as a result of the continuing growth of music within the School.

The new building therefore includes a large rehearsal hall to accommodate 100 people, a fully equipped recording studio, a heavily sound proofed teaching room for percussion/rock band work, 6 additional teaching/practice rooms and office and storage space. The existing Music School rooms were also extensively refurbished to provide for a main academic classroom together with a modern keyboard classroom, a music technology centre, a resources room and 2 further practice rooms.



The growth of music at the Perse is reflected in the fact that the Upper School now possesses Senior and Junior Orchestras, a String Orchestra, two Wind Bands, a Swing Band and many smaller ensembles rehearsing weekly. Other recent initiatives include a School Charity Cabaret, opportunities for rock bands, a Lower School Arts Festival, which celebrates achievements in music, drama and art and the introduction of AS Music Technology as a subject in the Sixth Form.

It is now possible to offer a teaching programme for pupils from the Pelican pre-preparatory school, with 30 pupils aged 3-7 years old receiving weekly tuition on the violin, piano and recorder, bringing the total number of music lessons taught each week to nearly 300. Together with the ever-increasing programme of music at the Prep, this should mean that the future of music at the Perse remains of the highest quality.

Looking ahead, it is planned to hire out the facilities to a variety of local and national organisations for auditions, competitions and exams during weekend and school holiday periods. It is also hoped that the first Department CD will be produced and the range of chamber music and ensemble performances will be further developed, maximising the use of the new facilities.



Bursaries

The pursuit of excellence in education for pupils of high calibre, regardless of family income, has remained a central aim at the Perse since the School's foundation. The benefits of offering such bursaries extend well beyond those who receive them. They help to attract able and committed pupils whose presence greatly enhances the intellectual and social diversity of the school.

The current Perse Bursary Scheme, which was set up in 1998, reflected the changing

environment of funding a quality education – most notably the demise of the government's Assisted Places Scheme which at its height helped finance 10% of Perse pupils. The last recipients of this scheme will leave in the current academic year (2003/04). Since 1998, largely as a result of support from the Millennium Appeal, the School has been able significantly to increase the number of bursaries it offers to pupils at the Prep and Upper, with over 10% of pupils currently on some form of bursary support, at a gross cost to the school of some £300,000.

Recent unavoidable increases in school fees mean it is more vital than ever to maintain and grow support for bursaries. The Perse does not have significant endowments on which to draw, and hence has to largely rely on external funding for this support. The success of the Millennium Appeal in helping fund so many bursaries shows what can be achieved and the School remains totally committed to the future expansion of the Perse Bursary Scheme.

“To generate support for the continuing development of the Perse by promoting its achievements and aspirations as a centre of educational excellence open to all.”

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